



RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth

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Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing to update you on the most recent Government guidance regarding coronavirus as you may be aware that a local school is closed today. At present, we have no suspected cases, no person in self-isolation and to our knowledge no one has returned from the specified areas in the last 14 days.

The guidance recommends everyone should regularly wash their hands with soap and if unavailable with alcohol sanitiser and that if you cough or sneeze to use tissues – catch it, bin it, kill it.

- students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school

The existing guidance states that face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

People who have returned from [Category 1 specified countries/areas](#) in the last 14 days should self-isolate. This includes avoiding attending an education setting or work until 14 days after they return. People who have returned from [Category 2 specified countries/areas](#) in the last 14 days, are advised to stay at home if they develop symptoms. **All other students and staff should continue to attend school** or university, including their siblings attending the same or a different school (unless advised not to by public health officials). People returning from other places in the world should continue to attend school unless they feel unwell.



| Category 1 – countries / areas | Category 2 countries / areas |
|---|------------------------------|
| Wuhan City and Hubei Province (China) | Cambodia |
| Any Italian town under containment measures | China |
| | Hong Kong |
| | Italy (North) |
| | Japan |
| | Laos |
| | Macau |
| | Malaysia |
| | Myanmar |
| | Republic of Korea |
| | Singapore |
| | Taiwan |
| | Thailand |
| | Vietnam |

If a student, visitor or member of staff becomes unwell whilst at school and believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 (either through travel to a specified country or area or contact with a confirmed case), we will contact NHS 111 or 999 in an emergency and the local Public Health England Health Protection Team for advice. If a person is tested, the advice states that there is no need to close the school whilst we wait for a test result. If a case is confirmed the local Public Health England Health Protection Team to discuss the case, complete a risk assessment and guide us of next steps. At this stage, the contact pathway will be assessed and the school will be deep cleaned.

If a person thinks they have been in close contact or are confirmed as a contact the guidance states, they should self-isolate for 14 days. Other family and friends who are not contacts do not have to self-isolate and can continue to attend school unless local Public Health England Health Protection Team advise otherwise. Outside those that are defined as close contacts, the rest of the school does not need to take any precautions or make any changes to our activities attending school as usual, unless they become unwell. If a person becomes unwell they will be assessed as a suspected case depending on their symptoms. The decision as to whether students, visitors and staff fall into this contact group or the closer contact group will be made between the Health Protection Team, school and parent/carer.

If you would like further information please click on the links [Public Health England Blog](#), the [NHS UK website](#) and latest country specific information [NaTHNac Travel Pro](#).

Kind regards
Ms Laura Howarth
 Headteacher

